United Nations E/2016/NGO/37

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by International Presentation Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

16-08481 (E) 270516

Please recycle

Statement

International Presentation Association welcomes the theme of the High Level Political Forum "Ensuring that no one is left behind."

To realize SDG Goal 16 that seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, non-discriminatory laws and policies are a must.

International Presentation Association is concerned about overrepresentation of Indigenous youth in the justice system that limits the realization of goal 16. An International Expert Group Meeting in 2010, on Indigenous Children and Youth in Detention, Custody, Foster-Care and Adoption, revealed discriminatory practices that serve Indigenous youth longer sentences for the same offences and hold them in detention facilities far away from their family and communities severing their cultural and family ties. A Statistics Canada report found that First Nations, Inuit and Métis women made up 43 percent of all incarcerated women, Indigenous girls accounting for 49 percent of young women placed in custody, and boys 36 percent.

While the reasons for this over-representation of Indigenous youth are varied and complex, in most cases the legal systems perpetuate the social inequality through specific legal and judicial practices. In Western Australia, for example, mandatory sentencing laws prevent the Children's Court from ensuring that detention is a measure of last resort. Here 10-17 year olds who form 6.4 percent of the population, make an average of 78 percent of the youth detention population. This violates the principle of proportionality and is contrary to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 years old, against 12 years by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

It is essential to reconsider this hard line approach to justice and explore alternatives. It is important to acknowledge the traditions and cultural values of each people for the protection and harmonious development of the child. To achieve this, State agencies and organizations need to understand the unique challenges of dealing with Indigenous youth, recognize historical social or economic inequalities, and include the concerns and voices of Indigenous youth when developing programs. Laws that limit judicial discretion and contravene Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, must be changed.

Recommendations:

- Implementation of Social Protection floors to ensure quality education and health for indigenous youth and children.
- Training of community based social workers and caseworkers with insight and understanding to work with Indigenous people in the justice system.
- Develop quantitative and qualitative data regarding Indigenous youth in juvenile detention.
- Develop youth programs with their participation.
- Focus on prevention before detention.
- Build community-centered rehabilitation programs.

- Develop alternatives to prison, such as outback training camps, to build cultural appreciation and self-confidence in young offenders.
- In ensuring that 'no one is left behind', national governments must address this stain on our legal system to stop Indigenous youth from getting caught in the revolving door of the juvenile detention system.

Statement

We live in a world of extraordinary scientific and technological developments. This gives us hope that we will be able to resolve our present and future problems but also presents us with the challenge of adapting to new data.

A clear desire for development can be seen in third world countries, despite a lack of resources. Meanwhile developed countries continue to grow rich from research, discoveries and inventions.

A growing gap exists between third world countries and advanced countries, with its ensuing consequences.

The international community has made a sincere effort to maintain a high rate of development in the third world, especially in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

The problem of climate change persists, despite the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) and its recommendations, which are to be implemented under strict international control.

There is also the problem of waste of all kinds, including nuclear waste, and how to dispose of it without impacting health or the local, regional and international environment.

The preservation of peace must be our constant aspiration, in order to maintain prosperity for all in a spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance, while making every effort to convey the importance of peace and to eliminate the obstacles that threaten it.

Another issue is respect for human rights and freedoms, together with gender equality, non-segregation and non-discrimination, and public participation in relevant decision-making.

The Charter of the United Nations sets out the path for us to follow and recommends the different issues we should take into consideration when addressing education, bearing in mind that any technology being used needs to be properly explained in order to prevent its misuse, that science must serve the people in a spirit of solidarity rather than domination, and that the law must be respected and enforced in order to address problems.

Indeed, the plethora of information from the media, which is sometimes contradictory, threatens to undermine our understanding of problems and make it difficult to take action. How then can we take advantage of science and technology while meeting their challenges? The purpose of education is to teach people how to behave in order to maintain social peace, how to acquire the knowledge necessary to participate in the prosperity of their countries and that of the international community, and how to develop their capacities and skills to improve their quality of life and understanding of issues.

Educators have an immense and critical task to perform: they must be able to identify that which is objectively useful from all of the information before them, while leaving aside personal preferences and doctrinal and religious opinions.

Statement

International human rights law provides standards covering a range of issues from health, education, housing and labour standards to political participation, fundamental freedoms and personal security, administration of justice and non-discrimination. These issues are fundamentally linked to development. As such, we highlight the critical link between development and human rights, including the rights of the most vulnerable groups. We also underline that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development and have a vital role to play in environmental and natural resource governance. We encourage the international community to recognize this link and recognize that development goals, in order to be sustainable, have to be grounded in human rights, justice and the rule of law.

By human rights we mean the full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. In terms of the international environment in which development goals are framed and their implementation supported, "the right to development, through the systematic application of the core principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability at both the national and international levels, establishes a specific framework within which the duty to provide international cooperation and assistance has to be implemented". Special attention must be paid to tackling broader governance issues such as corruption and enhancing the right to information and adequate remedies in this regard.

In articulating a Post-2015 development agenda, the need to promote the use of human rights indicators is crucial to measuring the success or not of development goals.

The MDGs have made some useful contributions to development. Yet, they did not make the link with human rights, which had important consequences.

- The goal of universal primary education did not explicitly refer to the human rights requirement that primary education be free and without discrimination, risking the exclusion of the poor, girls, migrants, indigenous persons, and persons with disabilities, among others.
- The goal of gender equality did not ensure the elimination of discrimination against women and equality between women and men, which should be addressed as a global priority in the future agenda, as should respect for the right to liberty and security of the person, and freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.
- Some human rights that are fundamentally linked to development and poverty eradication were omitted or under-prioritized, such as freedom of expression and of association, including labour rights and decent work, and the right to water and sanitation — so important for the right to life and to meet health-related goals.
- Insufficient attention to the human rights principle of accountability and access to justice has undermined incentives to reach goals and foreclosed any remedy for people whose rights were by-passed or abused in the development process.

Kawish Resource Center advocated to the federal and provincial governments for the inclusion of key issues identified by civil society organizations: peace and security, governance, equitable economic growth, population growth, engaging Pakistan's expanding youth population in positive activities, and gender equity at all levels.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/40

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Kenya Community Development Group, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08618 (E) 010616

Please recycle

Statement

"Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results"

Governments must insure that they are committed to meeting the post-2015 development agenda. They need to develop commitment in terms of working together with other stakeholder communities, including Non-Governmental Organizations and the private sector to insure that they fund activities that will promote democracy and consider political intervention to create an equitable society where justice is available to all citizens.

On the other hand rich countries must allocate enough funds to poorer countries to meet the development agenda.

Promises cannot change the world. Countries need to do things practically. We need to act to meet the post-2015 development agenda.

Many governments in developing countries are not fighting corruption. This is a reason why the post-2015 development agenda may not be met. Corruption is the key to injustice and delays in development. Projects involving religious leaders to fight corruption could play a bigger role to achieve results. Religion gives us the moral reasons to do the right things. Results will be seen when we involve religious leaders and work in coordination with government.

16-38618

United Nations E/2016/NGO/41

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Korean Association for Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-09008 (E) 070616

Please recycle

Statement

"Proposal of Special Cooperative Model among Enterprises — The National Assembly — The Government for Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

One of the effective models for implementing the SDGs is by utilizing the infrastructure that businesses have established. The model could be systemized by following three stages of cooperation: construction of business' SDGs infrastructure, governmental support for the relevant policies, and legislative support of the National Assembly.

1. Business is the only entity capable of technology development, large scale employment, education, and leading innovation simultaneously. Such features of businesses are highly suitable for spreading and implementing the SDGs.

2. All domestic and international business activities are limited and influenced by government policies in each country. Therefore, in order to introduce the SDGs to businesses, vigorous policy support should be implemented by governments.

3. Government policy is established by legislative activities and budget allocation of congress. Therefore, the SDGs should be actively discussed in the National Assembly and relevant legislation and budgets should be assigned at the National Assembly.

For the last two years, Korean Association for Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals has established a model to facilitate the cooperative process for the government — the National Assembly — enterprises to implement practical projects, make relevant policies, and discuss legislations to achieve the SDGs. This model, Korea National Assembly SDGs Forums, directly influences decision makers in the government and the National Assembly. The model has created an environment in which each enterprise works for the achievement of the SDGs through meetings and active discussions.

For example, we are working on the water treatment project with Boo-Kang Tech, an international wastewater treatment business. Boo-Kang Tech's exclusive technologies do not only contribute to treatment of livestock excretions that are high density wastewater and purification of sewage and groundwater, but also to the improvement of water environment. Specifically, this water treatment system enables purification of water and conversion of wastewater to nitrogen and phosphorus which are usable as fertilizer and organic material, an important source of energy. This world-class technology does not only contribute to improvement of energy efficiency but also to mitigation of environmental problems. As such, Korean Association for Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals is struggling to widen opportunities for enterprises with eco-friendly technology like Boo-Kang Tech to practically participate in the implementation of the SDGs and to change policy-making processes to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs.

The system provides a venue for decision makers of the National Assembly and the government to meet entrepreneurs directly, facilitating the SDGs implementation process to go along with the SDGs related activities of the enterprises. We will continuously propose to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) to spread our model to other member nations of the United Nations.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/42

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Krityanand UNESCO Club Jamshedpur, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08620 (E) 310516

Please recycle

Statement

Each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development. The most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict. There are also serious challenges within many middle-income countries.

The 2016 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) should focus on the needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Sustainable development is the international community's most urgent priority, and the core aim of the post-2015 development agenda. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) operates at the centre of the United Nations system's work on all three pillars of sustainable development — economic, social and environmental. So, within the United Nations system, ECOSOC has the main responsibility for following up on all major past international conferences linked to the three pillars of sustainable development, and is carrying this through in the post-2015 world. As a hub for the exchange of knowledge and mutual learning, ECOSOC has had an instrumental role in examining lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals, assessing the transition into the post-2015 agenda, considering implementation issues, exploring the scope of a renewed global partnership and inviting youth to share their views on their future.

We need to promote concrete measures for different groups to work together to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda; provide opportunity for youth to voice their opinions, share ideas, and think together about what they can do to achieve sustainable development.

In these Goals and targets, we need a strong supremely ambitious and transformational vision. We have to create a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive. We need a world free of fear and violence; a world with universal literacy; a world with equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, to health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being is assured. A world where we reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and where there is improved hygiene; and where food is sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and where there is universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

We need strong commitment to achieving this Agenda and utilizing it to the full to transform our world for the better by 2030.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/43

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08621 (E) 310516

Please recycle

Statement

Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre sees the current Sustainable Development Agenda as a veritable programme that is essential for the improvement of human dignity and the encouragement of sustainable peace in every facet of our society. Nevertheless, Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre's current assessment is that Nigeria has not started activities on the Sustainable Development Agenda.

This might be due to lack of adequate build-up of information and communication on the development agenda. The three tier government (the Federal, State and Local) seems quiet on the sustainable development agenda. They have neither initiated nor taken the appropriate lead that will spur stakeholder's attention to the Agenda, unlike what was done with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The private sector has been left in the dark concerning the development agenda. Thus, adequate information, which is the bedrock of success and transformation, has been short circuited.

Therefore, there is need to build on the existing bottom-up structures utilized for the MDGs. This will require informed stakeholder participation at all levels, which is currently lacking in our own assessment. Also, institutions, the private sector and local capacity will need to be strengthened to assist in implementing the sustainable development agenda.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/44

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by League of Women Voters of the United States, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08622 (E) 310516

Please recycle

Statement

Forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking — these are problems that are generations old yet new in this day and age of instant communications and advancements in technology, medicine, and other areas of well-being. Why is it that this problem is now a lucrative industry that cannot be eradicated?

The League of Women Voters of the United States is joining many other voices in understanding that because it is so lucrative an industry (International Labour Organization estimates that it is $150 Billion), until the demand is dramatically diminished, there will always be a supply of offenders preying on the most vulnerable. Therefore, we join with other voices in recognizing areas to deter and eliminate the demand.

- Forced Labour Trafficking — we have all heard countless stories of victims being pressed into servitude and bondage for a variety of reasons. Many times the victim is seeking a better life and is duped by dishonest brokers and recruiters. Sometimes, children are kidnapped and subjected to being child soldiers or victimized in mines, construction or garment manufacturing. The other end of the equation is those that pay the traffickers for these services either through the purchase of the goods or via services. Many times, legitimate multi-national corporations are unaware that they have been duped as well, not recognizing that slavery is contained in their supply or service chains.

- Sex Trafficking — many states are finally recognizing that this is not a victimless crime. In the United States, children that are involved in prostitution are now viewed as victims. What about children that are sold as child brides or whose parents are trying to lift the child out of poverty and provide a better opportunity and life? These parents can be duped, when their child is forced to service dozens of men a day or be subjected to rape, beatings and other forms of violence. What about the buyers, do they not have a responsibility to understand that the person that they are "buying or renting" is being coerced?

Therefore, in using the High Level Political Forum and the United Nations agencies as a means to eliminate and/or deter forced labour and human trafficking, the League of Women Voters of the United States offers to work with multi-sectoral actors including the United Nations, member states, public sector, academia, media and other non-governmental organizations to:

1. Raise awareness in the private sector of the issue of forced labour so that they will pledge to act and eliminate it in their supply and service chains;

2. Advocate for laws that prosecute the buyers of trafficked services;

3. Stress the importance of teaching respect of women and girls so that buyers are more aware of all human rights;

4. Share best practices in fighting the demand side of the human trafficking equation including the business aspects of it — money laundering and corruption.

We promote the goals of the International Labour Organization's Alliance 8.7 as an instrument to coordinate activities in fighting this terrible scourge.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/45

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Legião da Boa Vontade, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

Please recycle

Statement

How to implement the new global sustainable development agenda and transform the agreed international commitments into effective outcomes? We would like to contribute to the answer by sharing our best practices and presenting the proposals gathered during the 12th Legião da Boa Vontade's Solidary Society Network Multi-stakeholder Forum, held in São Paulo (Brazil). We are a 66-year-old organization with more than 90 permanent education and social assistance centers across seven countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay). In 2015, we provided more than 12.5 million acts of service to benefit people living in poverty.

The Forum, which was broadcast via national TV and radio stations, was supported by the NGO Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) and brought together prominent Brazilian policy specialists, representatives of civil society organizations, networks, the private sector and academia. The resulting recommendations are presented in three main topics: (1) strengthening local actors; (2) fostering civil society engagement; and above all, (3) strengthening education for a Planetary Citizenship.

We particularly emphasize the third topic because when education does not embrace the values of this new agenda, we face the risk of contributing to the perpetuation of social and environmental injustice and inequality. The Brazilian educator José de Paiva Netto has advocated since the 1960s that Charity/Solidarity is a value that is pivotal for ensuring sustainable standards of living, "an essential tool for adjusting the mechanisms of society, which is still today governed by individualism, whether in the private or collective sphere. As a matter of fact, this has led people to indifference, to a dryness of the soul, that is, the absence of Solidarity, Fraternity, and Generosity in human and social relationships. ... Charity, allied with Justice, is the fuel to profound transformation. Its action is subtle, but effective."

Strengthening local actors

When analysing a country's indicators, national averages may mask great internal inequalities, and that urges the disaggregation of global statistics and data. This measure should be followed by mechanisms that decentralize public policy implementation in order to ensure greater participation of the communities involved in this process. This also requires that work guidelines and procedures be improved, and public managers and community organizations be trained so there is better governance.

One promising practice has been the establishment of civil society networks engaged in sustainable development programs in the municipalities. These networks encourage local authorities to commit to a set of goals, leading to a more qualified public debate.

Fostering civil society engagement

Even though governments play a crucial role in complying with the new agenda, private initiatives and an organized civil society are both determining factors. That is why we need to foster social mobilization around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), like the successful actions taken when promoting the

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The formation of networks or platforms dedicated to the theme, advertisements for simplifying and publicizing the SDGs, the creation of observatories that assess local indicators, the intensive use of communications technology and social media, the incentive for volunteerism, and the establishment of partnerships aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are just some of the good practices that can be updated.

As far as historically marginalized groups are concerned, it is important to adopt instruments that enable the examination of the consequences of racism and other forms of discrimination for the new goals, and propose actions to end this inequality. In this sense, greater articulation between the 2030 Agenda and the Durban process may help.

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, signed in 2001 in South Africa during the World Conference against Racism, presents many action strategies, like the International Decade for People of African Descent, that began in 2015.

Strengthening education for Planetary Citizenship

Despite the fact that access to education has increased over the last few decades, the quality of the education offered needs to be improved, as foreseen in the fourth SDG. This requires not only that institutions, networks, and educational communities be strengthened, but also a reflection be made about the content that is prioritized when school syllabuses are devised.

The 66th United Nations Department of Public Information/NGO (DPI/NGO) Conference, held in Gyeongju in Republic of Korea, made an important contribution to achieving this purpose when it discussed "Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together". According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), "global citizens are individuals who think and act for a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world".

We, from the Legion of Good Will, work directly for the promotion of Global Citizenship, through formal education (basic education schools), and through informal education (social service centres and homes for the elderly). In the fields of advocacy and public information, we produce multimedia content about citizenship (broadcast on radio, TV, websites, and in publications) and social marketing. We hold and participate in congresses on various social topics. We train and advise NGOs that work with the SDGs targeted populations, among other actions.

We, therefore, cover all age groups and a wide range of regions, races, and religious groups, in addition to assisting people with disabilities. Our experience enables us to formulate the following proposals as our contribution to the debate on education for Global Citizenship:

Interdisciplinary programs

We believe that education should not be provided in a fragmented way. We understand that the knowledge imparted to students should not just be a reproduction of the teaching content that has been historically accumulated and organized in the curriculum. We recognize the importance of teaching and learning

about the legacy of previous generations (in science, the arts, languages, etc.). Nevertheless, we also believe that we need to create favourable conditions for students to reflect on the legacy that their own generation will leave.

We believe it is important to learn math equations, theories, languages, cultural movements, and ecosystems, but this is not the only purpose of the teaching-learning process. Implied in each subject are its political and social uses. To understand these uses, it is necessary to re-build the bridges between areas of knowledge. In other words, it is not enough just to study the atom, for instance; we need to understand the scientific revolution caused by the advances of this knowledge, to observe its use for military purposes and for generating power, and to grasp the social and environmental implications that persist until today for the people who suffered the impact of these advances. Biology, Physics, History, Sociology, and the Arts are not private universes isolated from one another, but different perspectives of investigation, in-depth analysis, and understanding of the same world, the same Humanity.

That is why in our schools, we apply the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, innovative teaching proposal created by Paiva Netto. There is not a particular class or an isolated moment when not to "work with values" and to debate solidarity, justice, respect, or sustainability. All the school subjects have a shared responsibility for ensuring that these values permeate all the content taught.

The themed programs we develop are organized by age span or by academic grades, respecting the needs, interests, and reality of the children, adolescents, young people, adults, and the elderly. In each of the subjects in our teaching network, the theme axes of Ecumenical Spirituality is applied in such a way that it communicates with the regular syllabus in an interdisciplinary way, thus, contributing towards giving a new meaning to and expanding intellectual content.

Ecumenical Spirituality — "A view beyond the intellect"

Ecumenical Spirituality is the basis of our social and educational work. We use the term "ecumenical" in its all-encompassing etymological meaning, "of worldwide scope or application; universal"; in other words, not restricted to the interfaith dimension, which is fundamentally important. Therefore, applying in the syllabus content "a view beyond the intellect" as educator Paiva Netto says, is not teaching students by means of a doctrinaire school textbook, or imposing a particular idea of God. It is about acknowledging and valuing spiritual wisdom, the millennial wisdom of our ancestors, which is part of the various different cultures and communities.

The importance of spiritual wisdom resides in fostering the awareness of the fact that the consequences of human actions are not those that just have an immediate impact. Reflecting on what we build in the present and its ramifications for the future, even if it is after our death, helps increase the responsibility that each one of us has for future generations. A sense of eternity may help us see further by provoking reflections such as: "What will be perpetually remembered about me from the attitudes I adopt in the community where I live?" and "What marks, the legacy that I am leaving in the world, or as various religious and spiritual traditions teach, I may be carrying with me?"

It is our understanding that considering the eternity of life in other dimensions, or even the continuous effect of our actions on material reality (the environmental impact we generate or the good results we leave as a legacy in our community), makes an effective contribution for adopting a sustainable posture that is necessary for the exercise of citizenship. In his book É Urgente Reeducar! [It is Urgent to Re-educate], the creator of the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, defines Ecumenical Spirituality as: "The cradle of the most generous values that are born of the Soul, the dwelling of the emotions and of the reasoning enlightened by intuition, the atmosphere that embraces everything that transcends the ordinary field of matter and comes from the elevated human sensitivity, such as Truth, Justice, Mercy, Ethics, Honesty, Generosity, and Fraternal Love. In short, the mathematical constant that harmonizes the equation of human, mental, moral, and spiritual existence...Now, without the knowledge that we exist on two planes, therefore not only on the physical plane, it is difficult to achieve a truly Solidarity-centred Society, because we shall continue to ignore the fact that knowledge of Superior Spirituality raises the character of creatures and, consequently, directs it towards constructing Planetary Citizenship."

Conclusion

Educating with Ecumenical Spirituality for Planetary or Global Citizenship is enriching education by reflecting on death, the meaning of life, charity, self-knowledge, and other universal values, based on an interdisciplinary perspective in which human, biological, and exact sciences add to the knowledge of students, their families, and the community. It means also applying dialogue about social, ethical, political, and philosophical implications to the teaching content.

We place ourselves at your disposal and shall be pleased to share our teaching proposal and its methodology with all those who believe in education as the way to Global Citizenship, which we also call Ecumenical Citizenship, as defined by educator Paiva Netto in a recent message to the international delegations present at one of the various UN debates:

"Important steps have been taken and achieved, but there is still a lot to be done before we can experience the citizenship granted to us by life in community, a global solidarity community, which I call Ecumenical Citizenship. And our tool for building the Ecumenical Citizen is something we cannot lose sight of: the universalistic spirit, whose instrument is Solidarity, enlightening minds and feelings. The Ecumenical Citizen is one who does not waste time on intolerant conflicts with others — just because they do not share the same social, political, and/or religious thinking, or do not belong to the same culture or race — but one who joins forces with others to reduce the overwhelming need that affects communities, the masses, or a single individual."

United Nations E/2016/NGO/46

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Make Mothers Matter, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

16-08369 (E) 260516

Please recycle

Statement

Leave no mother behind: Empowered mothers are change makers that can make the SDGs succeed.

"Empowering women is not only a goal in itself.
It is a condition for building better lives for everyone on the planet."
United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, International Women's Day 2007

For mothers around the world, especially the poorest living in rural or remote areas, the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) bring big hopes for a better future for them, as well as for their children.

At the same time, Make Mothers Matter is convinced that empowering mothers can have wide ranging positive impacts, cutting across many Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, empowering mothers means investing in children and families, and would be a high return on investment to advance the 2030 Agenda.

Mothers must be recognized as change makers, who, if only they are adequately supported and empowered, can be instrumental in the realization of many of these goals and targets.

Support mothers in breaking the cycle of poverty

Mothers and their children are disproportionately represented among the poorest and among the most vulnerable populations. As highlighted in the report that Magdalena Sepulveda, the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights presented to the United Nations General Assembly in October 2013, the unequal distribution of unpaid family care work and all its consequences is at the root of women's particular vulnerability to poverty and gender inequality. All over the world, mothers remain the main providers of unpaid care. This indispensable but invisible work, is performed in the homes, and includes domestic work and care of children, elderly and other dependent family members. Unpaid family care work sustains the wellbeing of families and communities, and subsequently supports the market economy. But in time, it also results in poverty, restricts mobility, and often impedes mothers' ability to seek employment or engage in income generating activities, maintaining many of them in poverty.

Addressing mother and child poverty is essential in order to break the cycle of poverty, and has the potential to end inter-generational poverty. The World Bank found that women reinvest an average of 90 per cent of their income in their families, vs. 30 per cent to 40 per cent for men.[1] Mothers are more likely to use their economic resources on food, education and health care for their children, thus creating a path out of poverty.

Addressing the unequal distribution of unpaid care work responsibility and empowering mothers is key to breaking the circle of poverty.

[1] The World Bank, Gender Equality as Smart Economics: A World Bank Action Plan, 2006.

Empower rural women in their multiple roles as household managers and caregivers, food producer and marketers to enhance food security and nutrition

Women make major contributions to the agricultural and rural economies in all countries, especially developing countries. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), women comprise on average 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, and account for an estimated two thirds of the world's 600 million poor livestock farmers. Many of them actually depend on agriculture as a primary source of income. In the least developed countries 79 per cent of economically active women, report agriculture as their primary source of livelihood. Mothers also often are engaged in subsistence farming and thus provide a huge amount of time and energy in ensuring nutrition and food security for their family.

But in their role as farmers, rural women remain discriminated against in terms of access to land, credit, and other productive resources such as access to seeds, fertilizers, information, training, etc. In addition, due to the lack of basic public infrastructures, the labour burden for rural women exceeds that for men as it includes a higher proportion of unpaid household responsibilities related to preparing food and collecting fuel and water.

Empowering rural women should be central to governments' action in relation to the 2030 Agenda. Policies should aim at supporting their multiple roles as household managers and caregivers, food producers and marketers, not to mention their role in nature conservation and climate adaptation. A gender sensitive development of public infrastructure and services is key to supporting rural women in these multiple roles and should be developed with them. Water and sanitation as well as electricity/energy are top priorities; but roads and transportation services, access to information and communication technology, schools, health-care centres, childcare and other care services are also important.

In rural areas, women should be regarded and thus supported in their multiple roles as mothers and farmers, and considered as change-makers for food security and improved nutrition.

Prioritize and invest in maternal health: healthy mothers can ensure healthy lives for their children

Pregnancy and childbirth continue to be life threatening for women. In 2015 an estimated 303,000 women died from related complications,[2] with 99 per cent of these deaths occurring in developing countries. Many more suffer from maternal morbidity, which leaves them with permanent consequences that can affect their physical, mental or sexual health, or even their cognition, mobility, status and participation in society. Pregnancy and childbirth are also the leading cause of death among the 16 million girls aged 15 to 19 who become pregnant each year. Behind these shocking statistics, there are also hundreds of thousands of children orphaned and in dire circumstances in these families.

[2] Trends in maternal mortality: 1990 to 2015 — Estimates by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank Group and the United Nations Population Division.

Most of these deaths and disabilities are preventable and these high numbers are simply not acceptable — Maternal mortality and morbidity is the ultimate discrimination faced by poor women and is the result of their lower social, economic, and health status.

On the other hand, the impact of mothers' physical and mental health on their children's health and development is now well documented. Adequate nutrition during pregnancy improves childbirth outcomes and affects child development in the womb. A growing body of evidence indicates that the first early years of a child's life, and in particular the "1001 critical days" from conception to age 2, are crucial for a child's long-term development and his future physical, emotional and mental health.[3] In particular, the earliest emotional experiences of a baby have a major impact on the development of its brain. Neuroscience has confirmed that problems that affect the child's health in this period, such as malnutrition and excessive stress, impair the child's physical and neurological development.

When mothers and caregivers are educated on the importance of hygiene, good nutrition, the relevance of the bond with the baby and on the impact of the stimulations he or she receives, they can actively contribute to their child's physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

Indeed, a preventive approach with a focus on mothers' education and mental health from the earliest days of pregnancy and giving support to the family to provide a safe, harmonious and stimulating environment to the child is a cost effective way to reduce mental and physical problems later in life. Child Early Education also has an important complementary role in supporting children's development.

Mothers and mothers-to-be who have the opportunity to meet with other mothers can educate, support and nurture each other. They can share knowledge and personal experience on a number of topics such as health, nutrition, etc., building social bonds and gaining confidence in themselves and their competences to raise their children. This is the aim of the workshops that Make Mothers Matter organizes, and of other such networks like Mama Cafes in the Netherlands. As another example, mother2mother in South Africa successfully trains, employs, and empowers mothers living with HIV to bring health and hope to other mothers, their families, and communities.

Educated and supported mothers can be change makers for their children's health and even for their own and other mothers' health.

Stop the intergenerational perpetuation of violence against women and empower mothers as agents of peace

Violence against women, domestic violence in particular, is widespread across all socioeconomic classes. Children experiencing domestic violence suffer emotional and psychological trauma, with negative physical and cognitive impact on their development. In addition, boys who witness their mothers' abuse are more likely to batter their female partners as adults, and girls grow up in the belief that threats and violence are the norm in relationships.

[3] 1001 critical days Manifesto, launched in the UK in 2013 — www.1001criticaldays.co.uk.

This vicious circle must be broken. Mothers must be supported to move from being a victim to standing for their rights and becoming part of the solution — for example through Human Rights Education.

Make Mothers Matter also upholds that peace awareness must be developed in the home from early childhood, and that mothers have a major role in teaching how to prevent violence and promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

"Change the world for girls, so that girls can change the world".[4] Ensure girls' education and end child marriages

It is widely acknowledged that education plays a key role in development, poverty eradication and ultimately peace; most mothers are well aware of its importance for their children.

The education of adolescent girls particularly, has the potential to end poverty — for themselves, their family and beyond. Girls should be able to go to school instead of staying home helping their mothers with unpaid care work, or being forced into early marriage.

Educated girls will become empowered mothers who in turn will have positive impact on their families, their communities and societies. They are the change makers of our future.

Therefore, Make Mothers Matter calls on Member States to give top priority to the fight against women's poverty and discrimination as the foundation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Beyond the general measures and policies that can address poverty (like reforming national laws that discriminate — notably property and inheritance law, implementing social protection floors that include universal health coverage, etc.), Make Mothers Matter would like to make the following recommendations:

- Address unpaid care work through redistributive policies. Gender sensitive development of public infrastructure and services that reduce and redistribute domestic chores and care are essential for women's empowerment.
- Support rural women in their multiple roles. The largest dividends lie with them.
- Invest in maternal health, and give women and girls access to reproductive health care and education.
- Educate mothers and other primary caregivers on the importance of early child development — in particular the "1001 critical days" — and on their power to break the cycle of poverty.
- Ensure girls' access to education well beyond primary school. End child and early marriage.
- Engage men, in particular fathers in their caring role and promote shared responsibilities.

[4] The Girls effect — www.girleffect.org.

Empowering mothers and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls produce what the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has rightly called a "double dividend": "Healthy, educated and empowered women have healthy, educated and confident daughters and sons".[5] The 2030 agenda is about "the future we want", and mothers and families can have significant impact on this future in multiple ways.

---

[5] UNICEF, The State of the World's Children 2007: Women and Children – The Double Dividend of Gender Equality.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/47

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Manavata, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08630 (E) 310516

Please recycle

Statement

Manavata's experience proves that even the most inordinate and seemingly impossible goals of the sustainable development agenda can be turned into prudent actions with a holistic approach and uncompromised efforts. This statement summarizes our position and we will postulate some recommendations.

Manavata, born with the vision of promoting humanity and with the mission of sustainable development at the levels of individual, society and environment, has been executing its development agenda for over 25 years. To give it a structured, scalable and replicable approach, in 2015, Manavata set up 'University for Humanity', in Mahboobnagar district, Telangana State, India, with the following objectives:

- Provide practical knowledge and tools in natural farming.
- Establish sustainable practices and facilitate learning from real models.
- Tap into rural innovation for indigenous solutions for sustainability as well as local job creation.
- Promote holistic health, sustainable life styles, human values and a spirit of service.
- Develop leadership, wider coordination and best practices in the most impactful communities such as farmers, teachers and doctors.

The following results were accomplished within six months:

1. 20 acres of plantation planted in a multi-layer model along with inter-crops like groundnuts, sorghum, beans, corn, vegetables and medicinal plants.
2. 60 acres of arid land turned into cultivatable land with increased soil nutrients.
3. 30 percent rise in profit reported per acre due to increased yield and reduced costs.
4. Over 30,000 patients treated in 25 villages with no access to healthcare.
5. 500+ people trained in Yoga and healthy living.
6. Over 15 leadership workshops organized for farmers, teachers and doctors.
7. Students from over 20 schools, including one for the visually challenged, trained in Yoga, values and healthy living.

Observations and Recommendations:

a. Natural farming is both feasible and profitable compared to pesticides based farming.

b. Governments and NGOs should support initiatives to make villages self-sustainable by empowering people through resources, training and leadership. This includes creating employment locally, consuming and marketing local produce and encouraging a drug-free and healthy society.

c. Establish knowledge centers in various regions to disseminate right practices.

d. Promote adoption of tree based foods rather than water intensive grain based foods. This leads to growth in trees thus improving ecology as well as human health.

e. Governments and businesses should encourage organic produce markets so that farmers can make a better living from adopting environmentally friendly practices.

f. Invest more on making sustainable health practices and education like Yoga, healthy living and alternative medicines accessible to the larger public.

g. Facilitate greater coordination between NGOs to share resources and ideas for wider reach.

Conclusion:

To move from commitments to results in a short time, it takes diligent planning and thorough execution as demonstrated by Manavata's University For Humanity, thanks to its volunteers' meticulous efforts and leadership's unrelenting dedication. The sustainable methods and results in farming and environment, local employment creation, values based education and healthy living can have wider implications if Governments and others take more direct and credible action. Only then it can be ensured that no one is left behind.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/48

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Mayama, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08646 (E) 310516

Please recycle

Statement

Mayama welcomes the 2016 High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council aimed to review countries' progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should focus on the greatness of its outreach all over the world, by which the voices of all are included, especially those of children and youth.

The recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals marks an important step forward for the United Nations and its Member States to achieve a more just and liveable world for children and youth by 2030. This adoption calls upon the international community and other stakeholders to take action and initiate efforts to adopt comprehensive frameworks at the national level to prevent children from suffering violations to their human rights. It is in our interest to maintain collective efforts towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Mexico, as this represents the first National Review of our country during the High-Level Political Forum.

Mayama recognizes that poverty, violence, school dropout rates and lack of identity are among some of the greatest obstacles to global advancement and well-being of children and youth in Mexico. As such, it is essential to include all social actors in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Open and transparent review processes should be established, in which non-state actors are fully included as part of an inclusive, transformative and innovative system where policies translate into action at the national level. We consider the importance of working together in the construction of platforms that allow non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders a wider and democratic participation in initiatives that support national and local efforts towards the full realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those related to children: 1, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17.

Stakeholders working at the grassroots level such as Mayama can provide valuable input on children's human rights and human development processes in national and local Sustainable Development Goals' review mechanisms. Our closeness and proximity to the main issues children and youth face in our country can provide alternative and creative solutions to socioeconomic problems that affect youth in the region.

The High-Level Political Forum should serve as a global platform to expand the participation of all stakeholders in the implementation and follow-up mechanisms of the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels. Through the sharing of best practices from non-governmental organizations working in the field, especially through the help of innovative educational programs that further human development such as Mayama, we are certain that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be adequately achieved and implemented in the next 15 years.

Mayama works hand-in-hand with the United Nations and other stakeholders to build a better world for children by 2030 and we look forward to the outcomes of the High-Level Political Forum's first National Reviews, in order to continue to work collectively for improvement, implementation, monitoring and reviewing of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/49

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life Education Fund, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08647 (E) 310516

Please recycle

Statement

"As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind", states the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. "Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the [Sustainable Development] Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first" (paragraph 4).

The international community should seek to implement the post-2015 development agenda without leaving unborn children behind. There is no right under international law to kill the unborn through abortion. Target 5.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals reaffirms, with respect to this issue, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action, which do not call for the legalization of abortion or recognize any right to abortion. The Programme of Action states, "Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process" (paragraph 8.25).

Nations have good reason to protect the unborn. The Agenda for Sustainable Development "emphasize[s] the responsibilities of all States ... to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind" (paragraph 19). Unborn children are human beings and, therefore, are subjects of human rights. This segment of society should not be denied protection on the basis of distinctions such as age, size, ability, or stage of biological development. Indeed, the right to life of all human beings is protected by international human rights instruments. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states, "Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law" (Article 6.1). The Declaration of the Rights of the Child affirms that "the child ... needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth".

Abortion is not necessary to combat maternal mortality. The Sustainable Development Goals aim to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030 (Target 3.1). This objective can be met by prioritizing adequate nutrition, prenatal care, skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric care, clean water, and sanitation. Maternal health depends on factors like these — not on the legality or availability of abortion. Ireland, the Republic of Poland, Malta, Chile, the State of Kuwait, Libya, and the United Arab Emirates ban most or all abortions and have very low MMRs. Target 3.1 simply does not require legalized abortion.

For these reasons, the international community ought to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals without promoting the legalization of abortion in countries that provide legal protection for unborn children. The sovereign authority of nations to determine abortion laws must be respected.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/50

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Modern Advocacy, Humanitarian, Social and Rehabilitation Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08648 310516

Please recycle

Statement

Transforming Governments' Macroeconomic Greed into Achievable Needs for its Most Unfortunate Populations

In many developing nations with high gross national income (GNI), there is significant class distinction between the poor and the rich. The wealth gap often leads to societal discrimination and marginalization that denies the less privileged many social benefits. Within urban settings in class divided societies, data policies fail to distinguish or take consideration of different livelihoods and living standards of the habitants. As such, the burden of paying government dues or taxes weighs most on poor individuals who are striving to make a living among wealthy town dwellers. Considering the need for high-quality, timely, reliable and relevant demographic data in support of the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which population-related issues underpin many of the goals and targets and which the current High Level Segment session wants to ensure that no one is left behind, these issues are at stake:

- Collective government levies on area dwellers is a significant factor that denies equality or equal progress for all classes of people in each area;
- Collective or uncontrolled housing and health billing modalities within urban areas denies the poor of their rights to equal and accessible quality services;
- Government focus on high economic potential areas undermines the value and need for sustainable development factors that aspire for the well-being of all.

In addressing these worries, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) proposes that ideal demographic data and estimates should be disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant to national contexts. In addition, the proposal of the Chair of the Forty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development towards strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development indicates thus:

1. Encourage Government efforts to adopt open data policies allowing the dissemination of public use, georeferenced and anonymized microdata from censuses, household surveys, civil registration, population registers, health information systems and other relevant administrative records with respect for confidentiality;
2. Population and housing censuses for a country as a whole and for each administrative area therein are one of the primary sources of data needed for formulating, implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of policies and programmes aimed at, inter alia, inclusive sustainable development, poverty eradication and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

Reflecting developing nations wherein a true will among the poor to serve corrupt public leaders is lacking, a more inclusive approach is necessary for implementing effective national demographic data policies. These include:

- Prior consideration measures on State levies for individuals in class distinguishing societies that reflect factors for poverty eradication and vulnerable women and girls' well-being;

– Populations' participation and encouragement towards the assessment and accountability of their collected and published demographic data;

Since the goals require a more inclusive human development and well-being approach, leaving no one behind will henceforth require that national demographic data processes be particularly focused on the situational worries of the vulnerable area dwellers.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/51

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Mountain Institute, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08649 (E) 310516

Please recycle

Statement

A plea for attention to the highland communities that steward the world's mountain environments

We thank the United Nations for the opportunity to present a written statement for the 2016 ECOSOC High Level Segment. The Mountain Institute applauds the theme of "ensuring that no one is left behind." We are writing because of our concern that mountain people and environments are at risk of neglect in the global sustainable development agenda. In our view, if these concerns are not vigorously addressed, fully delivering against many of the SDGs by 2030 will be at risk.

Mountains harbour indigenous cultures, vibrant communities, vigorous economies, and globally important natural resources including high levels of biological diversity. Amongst natural assets, the world's highlands provide fully half of the world's population with the freshwater they depend on for drinking, domestic use, irrigation, industry, and hydropower.

However, mountain people include some of the world's poorest and most marginalized communities. Further, some 329 million people living in mountains — primarily in developing countries — lack food security. Given that mountains contain only 13 percent of the total human population, this represents a deeply unbalanced 42 percent of the nearly 800 million people that are food insecure globally.

Furthermore, mountain areas are strikingly vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards. This is happening against a backdrop of widespread environmental degradation, deforestation, and unsustainable development in the world's highlands. These factors are reducing environmental sustainability, societal resilience, and economic options for mountain people around the world.

In response to these and other challenges, poverty and hunger eradication, gender equality, improved health, decent work opportunities, quality education, economic growth, infrastructure development, and general promotion of sustainability must reach the most remote and marginalized mountain communities. Without such focused attention, they will be unable to care for their local environments, nor respond resiliently to future social, economic, and environmental change.

Mountain people and environments need to be at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Efforts must advance the SDGs broadly in mountains, rather than just the three targets that specifically mention them in Goals 6 and 15. We are deeply concerned that in 2030, without such attention, entrenched pockets of poverty, social and economic marginalization, and continued environmental degradation will persist in the world's mountains. Without action, consequences will be far-reaching, even negatively affecting mountain-water dependent communities and economies in the world's lowlands.

The Mountain Institute, an NGO in special consultative status, is a proud member of the United Nation's Mountain Partnership where we serve as Chair of the Steering Committee.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/52

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by NABU — Knowledge Transfer Beyond Boundaries, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

16-08650 (E) 310516

Please recycle

Statement

In response to an open call for written statements, NABU — Knowledge Transfer Beyond Boundaries would like to make the following suggestions.

Using and applying information and communication technology can be instrumental in ensuring that all persons in need in the developing world can have access to education. This includes traditionally under represented communities such as women, children, indigenous populations, persons displaced by war, strife or other disruptive life events.

We further propose that information and communication technology can be used in ways that help underrepresented populations by providing access to on-line tools to find and identify resources they may not have been aware of. Moreover, information and communication technology can provide access to educational content and training material which can support sustainable development by creating critical skills and expanding pathways for individuals to attain employment or create economic opportunities through entrepreneurship.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/53

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by NeuroCare Ethiopia, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08651 (E) 310516

Please recycle

Statement

Global NeuroCare, formerly NeuroCare Ethiopia, holding Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC, applauds the United Nations Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda For Sustainable Development.

We fully concur with Declaration 26 regarding the importance of preventing and treating non-communicable diseases, including neurological disorders. The neurological conditions such as stroke, epilepsy, dementia and a host of other diseases have reached catastrophic levels in the least developed nations. These diseases and disorders are the single greatest threat to overall public health and will have profound effects on the stability of affected countries.

The single most effective method of combating this threat is to substantially increase the recruitment, development, training and retention of medical staff in developing regions, which comports with Goal 3(c) of the Agenda in the overall furtherance of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all people at all ages.

There has been substantial growth of global health programs throughout the developed world over the past decade, particularly in the United States, in both academic medical centers and non-government organizations. Based on our experience in Ethiopia during this same period, these programs often focus on brief medical missions to resource limited areas, predicated on ill-defined goals that fail to address the ethical, medical and legal concerns of the developing nation.

The result for Africa has been an uncoordinated scramble characterized by international medical paternalism, doctor tourism and ethical imperialism, because the academic institutions or non-government organizations are motivated by diverse interests beyond improving medical care, motivations like heightened visibility of global health in foreign policy, national self-protection against pandemics and bioterrorism, and widespread access to funding from governments, foundations and philanthropic organizations. These brief missions are highly advantageous to the sending institutions, but do not provide substantive benefit to the host nation and actually cause significant harm since visitors fail to recognize local needs, are unfamiliar with cultural differences and are frequently ill-suited to provide any meaningful medical care. The result can be disastrous for both physician training and patient care in these regions. Additionally, these missions can further disrupt medical care in the host nation by requiring already overburdened local staff to contend with social, cultural and language barriers while orienting visitors with respect to clinical activities, resource limitations and personal matters.

It is imperative to recognize that the only way to ensure sustainable growth of health care in developing nations is to ethically promote capacity building through stable, long-term partnerships with true reciprocity, ensuring that every visit improves care, services or education in the host country.

We strongly encourage the Agenda to consider a separate initiative to draft guidelines for groups, organizations or programs seeking to advance medical care or training in developing regions, in order to ensure that their goals, and efforts to achieve those goals, are sustainable, beneficial to the host nation, and avoid de-stabilizing already fragile, overwhelmed medical systems.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/54

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Orphan Charity Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

16-08736 (E) 010616

Please recycle

Statement

Orphan Charity Foundation appreciates the great efforts of your department and wish to inform the international community via the High-level Segment that the dilemma of orphans in Iraq has increased rapidly because of the escalating chaotic situation in Iraq especially the orphaned children from Shia internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the orphans of victims of terrorist operations.

At the end of 2015, Orphan Charity Foundation registered 110,110 orphans in 14 Iraqi provinces who are suffering from a bad social, educational, health and psychological situation and they need strong cooperation from the International Community to drag them from poverty, illiteracy, and loss. Aya Ghazi is one of those orphaned children who fled from Talafar after the collapse of Mosul in 2014. She is now without father or mother and she is recently an IDP in Najaf province. Her 8 year old brother Ali was in Talafar when his family ran away from Mosul. Unfortunately orphaned, Ali is now in the custody of ISIL in an orphanage which contains more than 60 Shia children.

Mr. President, can we cooperate together to return these children to their families?

Thank you so much for this opportunity to speak up loudly.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/55

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016
English
Original: French

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Perfect Union, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08737 (E) 020616 030616

Please recycle

Statement

Development assistance is voluntary action by an externai actor to drive development in a third country (a "developing country"). It is thus of an international nature. The donor may be a State, a public or private organization or a group of countries.

Development assistance is given for activities in various areas:

- Education
- Training
- Health
- Social sector
- Construction
- Development

Development assistance to implement those activities may take various forms:

- Grants to finance projects
- Loans at preferential rates
- Debt cancellation

Official development assistance came about in the context of the cold war and decolonization. It was created on 20 January 1949, in the State of the Union address by President Harry Truman of the United States. That speech advocated using the progress and knowledge of developed countries to benefit developing countries. That concept has evolved to address the challenges of globalization. With the emergence of the concept of sustainable development, development assistance went beyond the mere provision of technical knowledge to recognize cultural diversity. Some prefer the notion of development cooperation to that of development assistance. Development cooperation involves participatory support, as projects are developed in cooperation with local communities. Recently, there has been increased discussion of "co-development" between so-called developed and less developed countries. Jean-Michel Servet, in "Aide au développement: six décennies de trop dits et de non dits", argues that development assistance has always been a subject of debate. Similarly, in *L'aide publique au développement*, Olivier Charnoz and Jean-Michel Severino explain that many countries have a negative view of development assistance. They claim that beneficiary countries are not seeing progress, in spite of the assistance, because the aid is:

- Spent on poorly designed projects
- Misappropriated by local officials
- Sent to corruption-ridden countries

They argue that the emphasis has been on means rather than results. To achieve results, they advise the measurement of development assistance effectiveness as a basis for transforming the assistance system. Various questions have been raised with a view to making development assistance more effective:

- Is it impossible for development assistance to address the root causes of problems?
- How can we do better?
- How can we better measure the effectiveness of assistance?
- Why should we act?
- Where should we act?
- How should we act?
- How can we be as fair as possible?
- Should assistance be increased?
- Should assistance be stopped?
- Should assistance be strengthened?
- Do we need to move towards a new system?
- Does the aid system need to be completely revamped?
- Can we or should we make changes? If so, how?

In an unprecedented crisis, development assistance is still a vital resource if it is used well. The ever-increasing demand for aid calls for action, reflection and the effective organization of aid distribution. Whom does this concern? We all share the same planet and our fates are closely intertwined. Therefore, we must all rally around this common cause in order to create a sustainable world for all, particularly for those in greatest need. National development policies should be consistent with an approach that links poverty reduction to the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Of all the major policy priorities, combating poverty is thus the primary objective. In that connection, the United Nations has developed new objectives in key areas. In its Millennium Report (A/54/2000), it sets out the aim of putting people at the centre of the policymaking process, with a view to living better together. The Millennium Development Goals were established for that purpose. These Goals, which were adopted by 193 United Nations Member States and 23 international organizations, were to be achieved by 2015.

The United Nations also refers to a global partnership for development. As there is clearly a common objective here, the focus should be on establishing procedures for better joint management of the assistance provided. A number of systems are possible. Following discussions and work with a number of partners around the world and a subsequent analysis of various models, we created an innovative and effective atlas of sustainable project management. This was developed into the MAPEX method, which is now recognized around the world.

Do we need evolution or revolution? MAPEX is an effective tool with the potential to make a significant contribution in the area of development assistance. A global partnership for development rooted in a commitment to excellence, thanks to MAPEX, would be truly innovative.

MAPEX, a methodology for excellence in project management, places good governance at the heart of sustainable and balanced development for all. Action

should no longer be taken in haste, but rather on the basis of a real strategy of excellence for sustainable development. Actions should not be based on generosity alone; they should be well founded and intelligible, while remaining people-centred. We are at the dawning of a new era of partnership reflecting values and common sense. One way to explain this is through the example of climate change. The consequences of the actions of so-called developed countries are extremely harmful for populations, in particular the most vulnerable ones. Companies from so-called developed countries cut down trees that represented the livelihoods of local people, without replanting them. Consequently, even if development assistance is provided, it is irrelevant in the face of those companies' actions. If there are no trees left on the Earth, how will the peoples of either the North or the South breathe or live? None will be spared. It must be emphasized that climate change has devastating consequences, such as rising sea levels, melting ice, disease, hurricanes and the death of animals, that affect everyone.

We must therefore work together to ensure that actions are taken in the form of projects. We must all see ourselves as stewards of the Earth and act to protect it. To do so, we must move forward together, being sure to include the most deprived in particular. The goal is to live in a world that provides prosperity for all. Therefore, actions must be devised in terms of projects. That involves considering the life cycle of a project, which comprises several stages: design, implementation and evaluation. When doing so, it is desirable to focus more on preventive measures than on curative ones. We have therefore carried out upstream work to develop a methodology that strengthens the first stage of the project: the design. Why? The reason is simple: when a project is well designed from the beginning, it has every chance of success. We offer a toolkit that makes it possible to take better-informed decisions concerning assistance. More than a simple assistance application, what is needed is a process for developing true projects of excellence. That involves taking the time to select and prepare actions in accordance with strict eligibility criteria and conditionalities.

(I) Project selection: using strict eligibility criteria to identify effective projects of excellence

This involves verifying the eligibility of project proposals in accordance with precise specifications. Based on the feedback we have received, we have established a list of criteria that must be met for the project to be considered:

- Criterion 1: The project involves sustainable prosperity.
- Criterion 2: The project involves social inclusion.
- Criterion 3: The project involves environmental protection.
- Criterion 4: The project promotes peace, hope and positive values.
- Criterion 5: The project takes a common-sense approach.
- Criterion 6: The project team has expertise in the relevant area.
- Criterion 7: The project is of a reasonable duration.
- Criterion 8: The project is of an operational nature (and works).
- Criterion 9: The project is local or is suited to the local context.

- Criterion 10: The project benefits as many people as possible (collective dimension).
- Criterion 11: The project benefits local communities.
- Criterion 12: The project targets the heart of the issue and is in line with priorities for action (major problems).
- Criterion 13: The project has specific parameters.
- Criterion 14: There is a reversibility trigger.
- Criterion 15: Priority is given to direct processes.
- Criterion 16: The project is positive (has positive results).
- Criterion 17: The necessary administrative authorizations are in order (building permits, etc.).
- Criterion 18: The necessary legal authorizations are in order (property titles, etc.)
- Criterion 19: The documentation necessary for the exercise of the activity has been obtained (certification of competency).
- Criterion 20: The project has a significant impact on employment.

(II) Support for initiators of projects of excellence in the design of effective projects using conditionality criteria

Support for project design is an essential element of improving the aid system. There is a gap between target populations and donors. Project design requires a level of expertise that is often lacking in the target population. Sometimes the recipients of the aid are entities capable of managing the technical aspects of projects. Development assistance provides the funds they need. Assistance efforts should be as close as possible to the population, or preferably at the service of the population. The gap between the target population and the donor must be narrowed. There are many entities that would like to implement projects but do not have the necessary funding and would like to receive financing for their activities. A solid and efficient aid mechanism should therefore be put in place. The strict eligibility criteria that must be met before any action is taken, and the conditions for such aid, should ensure that beneficiaries on the ground make optimal use of the assistance granted for the benefit of the poorest groups.

(1) Condition 1: From an idea to a project

(a) From an idea to a project:

(i) Background: context of the project, central theme, figures and statistics

(ii) Nature of the problem

(iii) Objectives

(iv) Possible solutions, problems, advantages and disadvantages

(v) Chosen solution

(vi) Degree of innovation/originality: a project should not reflect a cut-and-paste approach but should have its own identity

(2) Condition 2: Project design

(a) Motivation (why?)

(b) Activities (what?)

(c) Target population — end beneficiaries (who?)

(d) Location (where?)

(e) Timing (when?)

(f) Impact (on employment, the environment, etc.)

(3) Condition 3: Clear planning

(a) Duration of each activity

(b) Completion of a pilot phase

(c) Deployment phase

(d) Human resources

(4) Condition 4: Strict project budgeting

(a) Two conditions for payment:

(i) Reporting of expenditure

(ii) Achievement of objectives

(b) The project initiator must make a contribution (which may be in kind)

(c) The contribution in kind must be valued, whether it comprises:

(i) Movable assets or real estate

(ii) Land or infrastructure

(iii) Human resources (staff and volunteers)

(5) Condition 5: Transparency of actions

(6) Condition 6: Partnership element

(7) Condition 7: Performance indicators for monitoring changes and progress in implementing the project:

(a) Quantitative results

(b) Qualitative results

(c) Risk factors and mitigation measures

(d) Reversibility triggers

This toolkit can be developed and supplemented while still maintaining the fundamental aspects of a partnership- and excellence-based development approach.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/56

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Pos Keadilan Peduli Ummat, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08747 (E) 010616

Please recycle

Statement

In order to actually increase quality of life, both at individual and community levels, which would eventually accelerate the target accomplishment of quality of life, the program should empower the beneficiaries, and in that way, the realization of change of behaviour would become the mainstream of Pos Keadilan Peduli Ummat's community empowerment programs within the program distribution period 2009-2015, which consists of:

1. Clean Water and Drinking Water Easy Access Program which has been distributed to a population of 648,659 beneficiaries. This Program supports SDG 6.

2. Capacity Building Program providing good nutrition and nutritious food for mothers, mothers of under-five toddlers, breast-feeding mothers, and their under-five toddlers, which has been distributed to 887,663 mothers and under-five toddlers. This Program supports SDGs 2 and 3.

3. Poverty Eradication Program which has been distributed throughout the regions of Indonesia and Myanmar with the total number of 223,164 beneficiaries. This Program endorses SDGs 1 and 8.

4. Alertness Program and Disaster Risk Reduction Program which has given a large number of benefits to 1,450,756 people and it endorses SDGs 2, 3 and 6.

5. Gender Empowering Program which has been distributed in the regions of Indonesia and Myanmar to empower as many as 254,840 women so that they become the frontline of change for the better (improvement). This Program supports SDG 5.

6. Education Program which has been distributed in Myanmar, Indonesia, and Palestine with the total number of 777,812 beneficiaries. This program endorses SDG 4.

7. Health Services Program which has been provided to 926,264 beneficiaries in Indonesia, Pakistan, Haiti, Turkey, Somalia, Kenya, the Philippines, and Palestine.

Pos Keadilan Peduli Ummat was also involved in the United Nations preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). Pos Keadilan Peduli Ummat was active during its participation in: Regional Consultation WHS meeting of North and South-east Asia NGOs in Tokyo July 2014 and The Global Consultation of WHS in Geneva November 2015.

2016 is the first year of the implementation of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda or as we know it, the SDGs, by which the first discussion on SDGs emerged at the Rio+20 meeting in 2012 where 192 countries agreed to establish the SDGs platform, including taking into consideration various criteria such as action oriented, implementable, and universal. Based on such considerations, the universal SDG development targets, needed and gained support from all elements of the world community, including governments, NGOs, the private sector, universities, and societies. With the United Nation's optimal role, such SDGs formulation would not only be a mere discourse. It would also serve as the important source for synchronizing the strategies and policies as well as the driving force for all countries — developing and developed countries — to improve the lives of their people in better way. At the level of NGOs, it is expected that the United Nations would be able to initiate the increase of local NGO's capacity to be more active in attaining their country's SDGs.

United Nations E/2016/NGO/57

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2016

Original: English

2016 session
24 July 2015-27 July 2016
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Pragya, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08748 (E) 010616

Please recycle

Statement

The SDGs have sounded a clarion call for addressing the poor and the vulnerable — men, women and children who tend to get left behind and even deliberately excluded as the world progresses. The disadvantages that underpin these vulnerabilities and exclusion span gender, ethnicity, disability, age, economic-strata and geography. For making the world a better place for all, state and non-state actors for development have to work determinedly to dispel the blinders and the barriers that keep us from recognising and addressing those that are most vulnerable and disadvantaged, exposing the psychologies and politics of such exclusion and extending the necessary finances and institutional support towards inclusion. We give below our suggestions for actions to support our commitments on the SDGs:

1. Be hyper-focussed on the most vulnerable/disadvantaged, unwaveringly committed to ensuring their well-being, and deeply aware that the barriers that keep those farthest behind trapped in social-exclusion and/or poverty are the most obdurate. Acknowledge that the forces that help to maintain inequalities and discrimination could even include the institutions/actors of development and governance.

2. Commission independent studies to clearly identify vulnerable/disadvantaged groups and their deprivation/needs, and an incisive assessment of specific barriers as well as institutions/agents of development that overtly/covertly connive to their perpetuation. Target-setting and programme-design must be closely aligned to the findings.

3. Set micro targets-cum-milestones to ensure the full package of rights-opportunities for vulnerable/disadvantaged groups, since a broad brush of development, such as used for the MDGs, would once again leave these groups behind. Disaggregate them by sectors, rights/opportunities, provinces, and groups (socially excluded/discriminated, poorest and resource-starved, disadvantaged by geographic-remoteness, policy-oversight, infrastructural-lacunae, technological divide), to ensure the spotlight is shone on the shadows of development and the desired rate of progress is achieved.

4. Institute measurement systems to reflect accurately the status of vulnerable/disadvantaged groups, and changes in status against the goals, keeping in mind that benefit-flows tend to follow well-worn channels to dominant groups. Match disaggregated targets with disaggregated evidence-generation to track progress at micro-scale, ensuring data-integration into national reviews without loss of granularity. Commission periodic, objective studies by independent agencies committed to vulnerable/disadvantaged groups, using the findings for course-correction.

5. Deliver specific right/opportunity-focused programs to address vulnerable/disadvantaged groups: leverage 'Levellers' (technology/education) that tend to reduce the divides, and intervene in 'Empowering' sectors (livelihoods/health) that deliver multiplier impacts; develop niche-industries in remote areas which would contribute to economic-inclusion and neutralise the one-way extraction of resources currently prevalent.

6. Reform state-infrastructure/institutions to ensure equity in their services/facilities and inclusion of vulnerable/disadvantaged groups. Deliver a

social-change/behaviour-modification programme and vigilance-mechanisms to ensure minimum standards and zero-tolerance on discrimination. Ensure strict laws and their implementation, and social protection for vulnerable/disadvantaged groups; at the same time, treat perpetrators of discrimination as deserving both legal and psychological intervention.

7. Create targeted policies with sufficient budgetary allocations for last-mile communities, and incorporate positive discrimination and special allocations towards vulnerable/disadvantaged groups in common programs, in order to bridge the gaps. Propel their civic/democratic participation which would also have the effect of bringing them in from the cold, both politically and developmentally.